

Scholarship SOP

What does it mean to you to be part of a minority community? What challenges has it brought and how have you overcome them? What are the benefits? (no more than 400 words).

In a vastly multicultural society like India, where everyone is classified according to caste, creed, gender, and other factors, the term "minority" is a difficult one to grasp. I come from a community that has long been rejected by the majority of the population, and my people have been denied many opportunities, whether in education, the workplace, or other societal situations. Life has been anything but easy for me as a gender non-conforming woman in a lower caste Muslim society. Discovering and accepting myself for who I am seemed to be the most difficult hurdle until I had to speak up to my conservative family and come out to them.

When it comes to schooling, my family is more liberal than others in my community. My parents have always pushed me to work harder and push my limits further, despite the fact that many of our relatives don't believe in the value of educating women in the family. Throughout my childhood, they instilled in me the belief that my only hope for success in life was to have an education and a well-established professional career. They wanted me to stand on my own feet and never depend on anyone for anything.

As a result, I worked extremely hard in school and college and excelled in every exam that I took. I was always the class leader, and I never let anything divert me from my studies. I was resolved to make my parents proud and show them how grateful I was for everything they had done for me. This determination to succeed and innate motivation is what I believe I share in common with most ambitious students from minority communities and one of my greatest strengths.

My extended family was always pushing for me to marry and trying to persuade my parents that it was the best thing to do. They didn't think it was a good idea for a woman to have her own professional career. This, however, did not deter me. If anything, it inspired me to work harder and achieve the goals I set for myself. I believe I am deserving of this award because against all odds, I have maintained consistent academic proficiency and have never shied away from hard work.